

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 881

By Rich

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ennis Jefferson Hurdle, Jr., of Fayette County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly recognize those citizens whose industry, community involvement, and impeccable character bring honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, Ennis Jefferson Hurdle, Jr., son of Ennis Jefferson Hurdle and the former Johnnie Kate Williamson, is one such exemplary citizen; and

WHEREAS, born in Slayden, Mississippi, on September 25, 1933, Ennis Hurdle's family moved to Moscow, Tennessee, where he attended Moscow Elementary School and Fayette County High School, before graduating from Mississippi State University; and

WHEREAS, as a youth, he displayed a knack for inventing and designing mechanical things; he built a vehicle in his parent's back yard that he drove to the surrounding towns of Somerville and Rossville; and

WHEREAS, Ennis Hurdle served in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. St. Paul from 1955-1957 as a machinery repairman, and after his service, he returned to Moscow, where he worked several jobs, including gravel-hauler, a machinist at Memphis Machine Works, and a tool and die maker at Troxel Manufacturing Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Mr. Hurdle opened Holly Machine and Tool Works in Holly Springs, Mississippi, where he designed and built the first Hurdle Automatic Sawmill; in 1969, Ennis Hurdle and his father erected the first buildings that would become Hurdle Machine Works, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Hurdle Machine Works, Inc. has since expanded to a 55,000 square foot plant that has manufactured and shipped over 450 sawmills to customers throughout the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, holder of several U.S. patents for sawmill machinery, Ennis Hurdle designs simple, dependable, and affordable machines alongside his two sons, Jefferson Logan Hurdle and John Harvey Hurdle; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hurdle served as an alderman for the City of Moscow from 1976 to 1983; during his tenure, he fought to rebuild the Bateman Bridge over the Wolf River east of Moscow and to acquire easements for the road; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hurdle also served as Fayette County Commissioner from 1983 to 1990; as commissioner, he was deeply involved in the purchase of the lot that would become the home of the new Lagrange Moscow School; and

WHEREAS, a thoughtful public servant, Ennis Hurdle served as the chair of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee and was a member of the Fayette County Industrial Board from 1975 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Hurdle received the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce's Industrial Award in 1985, and in 1996, he was recognized by State Tech Community College for supporting the Chance for College program that provides Fayette Ware graduates with tuition, book assistance, home visits by counseling teams, and transportation assistance to State Tech Community College from Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Hurdle donated land for the new Moscow City Hall and Community Center in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Ennis Hurdle is a strong Christian and a member of Collierville United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ennis Jefferson Hurdle, Jr. is an outstanding citizen who is industrious and skillful in his professional endeavors and kind and generous in private life, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize Ennis Jefferson Hurdle, Jr., salute his dedication to living the

examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.